

EXTENSION OF MORNING  
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time for morning business has expired as of 3 o'clock. The Senator from Louisiana would need to get unanimous consent if she wishes to speak in morning business.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I see the Senator from Mississippi is in the Chamber. I do not want to interrupt any scheduled business. I was scheduled to speak in morning business. I can take 5 minutes later, after the Senator from Mississippi is finished, if he would like to proceed. I do not mind waiting.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it is my understanding the Senate was to return to the consideration of H.R. 2862, the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill at 3 o'clock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is the previous order. It would require unanimous consent to allow morning business to continue beyond 3 o'clock.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I do not want to object to the Senator proceeding to discuss whatever she wants to discuss. I am happy for her to take whatever time she needs to talk about this issue that is of great concern to me, as well as to her.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Mississippi. I ask unanimous consent for 5 minutes, and then we could proceed to the bill.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I have no objection to the Senator having 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes in morning business.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Presiding Officer.

## HURRICANE KATRINA

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today is day 15 of Hurricane Katrina, which has devastated the southeastern part of Louisiana and parts of Mississippi and some parts of Alabama and other States. I have come to the floor, just for a few minutes, to give a few brief remarks—some on a positive note as to some positive things that are taking place, and then some which are descriptive detail as Senators, both Republicans and Democrats, begin to build ideas for the rebuilding of this great region.

First, let me say how pleased I am that a group of Senators will be coming down to the region on Friday. Details of that trip will be announced, but Senators from Mississippi and Louisiana have suggested that some of our colleagues come down and see firsthand the devastation. Not wanting to use assets that were being required for search and rescue, now that phase is almost completed, and it is appropriate for

Senators to come down. I understand Senator REID and Senator FRIST are organizing that trip with some of the Senators here. Senator VITTER and I and others look forward to getting them down on the ground to show them the breadth of the devastation.

One point on that: This is a picture of New Orleans that was done by the New York Times. I thought it was extremely helpful, and I would like to take a moment of my short time on the floor to show this picture in a larger view.

We understand the city of New Orleans has been particularly hard hit, not only by the hurricane but the subsequent breaches of the levees that put most of the city under 10 feet of water for 5 days, 6 days. Even going into actually today, the 15th day of this disaster, there is still water in the city, which is being pumped out now that the levees have been fixed. But the water is still not completely gone.

In addition, in the picture you can see Jefferson Parish. I am going to try to provide an update of that tomorrow. Over here is St. Bernard Parish. Again, I am going to try to provide an update. On this side of the lake is St. Tammany Parish, and I will try to get to that in another day or so.

But as Senators come down to view this whole region—not just New Orleans but an area of 90,000 square miles, the size of Great Britain, stretching from the Gulf Coast halfway through Louisiana—one thing to note about New Orleans that is still not quite understood is this river ridge was the high part of the original city. As you know, before we had concrete highways, the highways we built this Nation on were our rivers. So this city, being one of the oldest in the Nation, was built on this river.

Amazingly and thankfully, the areas close to the river are not underwater, which is this whole ridge. The French Quarter has stayed pretty much high and dry, even the Lower Garden District. Some of the poorer areas along Tchoupitoulas Street are, thank God, out of the water all along the river ridge. The west bank has been spared where we want to build our Federal city complex. We now know it is a good place because it is a highland area and a good place to build.

But this entire city—eastern New Orleans, which is a middle-income neighborhood of White and Black citizens, as well as some poor, very poor; and the Lower Ninth Ward—this is where the Lower Ninth Ward is—Gentilly, which is a middle-income neighborhood of Black and White citizens; the Bywater neighborhood; Mid-City; Lakeview, which is predominantly White but very integrated in some parts and very high income—is completely underwater. Then, of course, there is the midpart of the city, which is low.

So as our Senators come in, they will literally see what looks like Noah's Ark, looks like something of Biblical proportions. Maybe the water will have

gone down by Friday. They are pumping it out quite fast. But just to get some sense, the entire city—poor areas and wealthy areas—is underwater, as well as the east bank of Jefferson. St. Bernard was still completely underwater the last time I flew over as well.

So our work is complicated by having banks and schools not functioning. Shown in this picture, in each one of these blocks—I know I only have 1 minute left—these are schools, these green dots. All of these schools have 10 feet of water in them, every single green dot, except for the ones along the ridge. These are our courts. Most of our courts are not able to function, city or Federal courts.

Our police stations are underwater, which is why some of our police were not able to function as well as they would under normal circumstances. But I am pleased to report, after hearing from Chief Compass today, not one commander of the New Orleans police force left his post, even though 80 percent of them have lost their homes. Some of them have lost their families. As the President said himself, first responders have been victims themselves.

So I thought I would present that today, to say thank you to the Senators for organizing the trip. I know the Finance Committee is going to announce in just a few minutes some tax relief opportunities that Senator GRASSLEY and Senator BAUCUS have worked out. I have worked with them. Senator VITTER and others have worked to put that together. We are very pleased more help is on the way.

Mr. President, I appreciate Senator COCHRAN giving me the opportunity to speak for a few minutes about those points. I will try to get to the floor sometime tomorrow for the same reason.

Thank you, Mr. President.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING  
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THUNE). Morning business is closed.

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR  
SCIENCE, THE DEPARTMENTS OF  
STATE, JUSTICE, AND COM-  
MERCE, AND RELATED AGEN-  
CIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 3 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2862, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Lincoln amendment No. 1652, to provide for temporary Medicaid disaster relief for survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

Dayton amendment No. 1654, to increase funding for Justice Assistance Grants.